

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 /031 W

-----002518 080852Z /10

R 071707Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8627

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 17033

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, BDIS, BE

SUBJECT: INVESTIGATION OF AMERICAN LAND PROGRAM, INC.

1. THE DIRECTOR OF THE BELGIAN BANKING COMMISSION, MR. J. VERTENEUIL, ASKED EMBOFF TO ASSIST BELGIAN AUTHORITIES IN LOOKING INTO ACTIVITY OF FIRM WHICH SET UP OPERATIONS IN BELGIUM IN 1977. THE FIRM'S NAME IS "AMERICAN LAND PROGRAM" WITH OFFICES ON KUNSTLAAN 19H, 1040 BRUSSELS AND HAS SEVERAL AMERICAN CITIZEN PARTICIPANTS. MR. VERTENEUIL INDICATED THAT WHILE THE ACTIVITIES OF ALP APPEAR TO BE OUTSIDE OF THE DIRECT CONTROLLED RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BANKING COMMISSION, AN INVESTIGATION WAS BEING LAUNCHED TO DETERMINE IF THE FIRM IN QUESTION WAS MAKING ILLEGAL CLAIMS IN ITS PUBLICITY. ALP CLAIMS TO HAVE 25 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND TO MANAGE LARGE INVESTMENT PROGRAMS TOTALLING IN 1977 OVER \$300 MILLION. IT ALSO STATES THAT IT IS "THE LARGEST AMERICAN REAL ESTATE ORGANIZATION IN EUROPE." IN AN AD PUBLISHED IN THE BELGIAN NEWSPAPER "DE STANDAARD", ALP CLAIMS TO BE "THE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE FOR WESTERN EUROPE OF THE U.S. DISTRICT COURT (SIC)". THE FIRM USES AS ITS INSIGNIA A VARIATION OF THE GREAT SEAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

2. OFFICERS OF THE FIRM ARE: BERNARD WHITNEY, P.O. BOX 206, HERMOSA BEACH, CALIFORNIA; MARVIN GOODSON OF LOS

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ANGELES, A LAWYER AND MEMBER OF THE ABA AND A CPA; MAURICE A. HALL OF LOS ANGELES, REAL ESTATE EXPERT; RIENK H. KAMER, OF BRUSSELS, FINANCIAL ANALYST. THE FIRM CLAIMS TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH MFT FINANCIAL INC. OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, A "FINANCIAL TRUST". IT IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH MONT BLANC REALTY NV OF WILLEMSTAD, DUTCH INDIES. IT CLAIMS TO WORK WITH THE TRUST DEPARTMENT OF THE BANK OF

CALIFORNIA AT LOS ANGELES. ALP INC. ALSO IS ASSOCIATED
WITH VERPET DEVELOPMENT COMPANY OF LOS ANGELES.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 7 THE EMBASSY WROTE TO ALP BRUSSELS
SEEKING CLARIFICATION OF ITS CLAIM TO REPRESENT "THE
US DISTRICT COURT." WE ALSO CALLED TO ITS ATTENTION
REGULATIONS PROHIBITING MISUSE OF THE GREAT SEAL FOR
ADVERTISING PURPOSES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THE BELGIAN BANKING COMMISSION
WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION WHICH CAN BE
PROVIDED TO ESTABLISH THE BONAFIDE NATURE OF ALP.
CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAND, TRANSACTION CHECKS, BUSINESS FIRMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE17033
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780365-1104
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780990/aaaacwof.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e9bbde55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1511113
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INVESTIGATION OF AMERICAN LAND PROGRAM, INC.
TAGS: EFIN, BDIS, BE, US, AMERICAN LAND PROGRAM INC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9bbde55-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014